

Message Text

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TAGS: OCON, IWY, UN

SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (WCIWY)

REF: STATE 119806; STATE 129496

1. SWISS DELEGATION TO WCIWY WILL BE HEADED BY SWISS
AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO, SILVIO MASNATA, AND ALSO INCLUDES
MRS. EDITH ZIMMERMANN-BUETIKOFER, DR. LILY NABHOLZ-HAIDEGGER,
AND DR. MARCUS KAISER.

2. AMBASSADOR MASNATA, BORN 1915, OBTAINED A DOCTOR OF
LAW DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE, THEN WORKED
BRIEFLY AS JOURNALIST AND FOR THE FEDERAL ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT
BEFORE SWITCHING TO FOREIGN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (FOREIGN
OFFICE) IN 1946. HE HAS SERVED IN MOSCOW, BOGOTA, LIMA,
MADRID AND CAIRO. IN 1966 MASNATA BECAME AMBASSADOR IN
PAKISTAN, AND FIVE YEARS LATER AMBASSADOR IN CUBA WHERE HE
ABLY REPRESENTED U.S. INTERESTS. MASNATA BECAME AMBASSADOR
IN MEXICO CITY IN 1974. HE IS SAID TO BE FLUENT IN ENGLISH,
FRENCH, GERMAN, SPANISH AND RUSSIAN.

3. MRS. ZIMMERMANN HAS HAD A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN
WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC SERVICE. BORN 1925, SHE
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JOINED SWISSAIR IN 1949 AND A YEAR LATER WAS CHIEF HOSTESS.

IN 1960 SHE WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION IN HER CANTON OF GLARUS. SHE RETAINS A STRONG INTEREST IN CANTONAL AFFAIRS. MRS. ZIMMERMANN HAS BEEN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS FEDERATION OF WOMENS ORGANIZATIONS. IN 1964 SHE BECAME AN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER ALSO OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL, SPECIALIZING IN THE ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES AND SEMINARS, AND ESPECIALLY IN PROMOTING THE RESCUE HOME IN BOMBAY. IN 1973 SHE BECAME VICE PRESIDENT OF THIS COUNCIL. IN SWITZERLAND SHE IS A MEMBER OF MANY FEDERAL COMMITTEES AND STUDY GROUPS, DEALING WITH SUCH DIVERSE ISSUES AS NATIONAL DEFENSE, SWITZERLAND'S RELATIONS TO THE UN, AND REVISION OF THE MILITARY INSURANCE LAW. IN THE SPRING OF 1974, MRS. ZIMMERMANN WAS A CANDIDATE FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF GLARUS, THE FIRST TIME A WOMAN HAD EVER CONTESTED A CANTONAL EXECUTIVE SEAT. SHE LOST NARROWLY, BUT IT IS EXPECTED THAT SHE WILL TRY AGAIN.

4. DR. NABHOLZ, BORN AROUND 1945, HAS A DOCTORATE IN LAW. SHE HAS SERVED AS LEGAL CONSULTANT TO THE LEAGUE OF PROTESTANT WOMEN. HER PRINCIPAL CURRENT OCCUPATION IS AS LEADER OF THE TASK FORCE "SWITZERLAND IN THE YEAR OF THE WOMEN." SHE WAS ACTIVE IN LAST YEAR'S NATIONAL CONGRESS OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS IN BERN.

5. DR. KAISER IS A FAIRLY JUNIOR FPD OFFICIAL IN THE UN BUREAU, CHARGED WITH FOLLOWING SOCIAL AFFAIRS. DOMINICK

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